Wednesday
August 26, 1970

Dear Harold and Gary:

Today is my first day back at work... and I really shouldn't be here today. I've been "baby-sitting" with Jimmy Lee and I was about to go out of my mind. His trial was last Wednesday and they made us "sweat" right up to the last minute. It was "settled" in the judge's chambers just before the trial. He is out of it if he will go into the service. Now, we have an additional problem. He was about to be drafted in May and had to go down to take his physical. We knew he took it and the army said he passed but that was all we knew. What we didn't know was that he hadn't wanted to go and had checked every possible thing listed on the forms as having been wrong with him... literally everything from athlete's feet to venereal diseases. Poor Buck saw it for the first time at the Air Force Recruiting Station last week and I thought we were going to have to bury him on the spot. Buck almost screamed, "Son, when did you have a venereal disease?" Jimmy said, "I really didn't. I just thought I had." He had also checked that he had a hard time getting along with others in school. Now, we've had to get an affidavit from his family doctor and the headmaster of the college prep school where he went, assuring the air force that he is sound in mind and body (which I really doubt), but I don't think the Air Force wants him now... We have until the first of September to get him into something. (I'm about ready to turn him over to the Russian army, but I'd bet they wouldn't have him either.)

Harold, if we do succeed in getting him "placed" somewhere by the 1st, would it be convenient for you and Lil if I flew up there the 4th of September (Friday afternoon) and stayed until Monday, the 7th? We are off from the office for Labor Day and I think I can get away from here but if you have other plans, I can come later. I would definitely be flying into Dulles. That's the only place in D. C. that Braniff lands.

I really enjoyed Sylvia Meagher. She is delightful and so very intelligent. I also enjoyed Shirley's visit. She is quite well now and I think she and I did each other a lot of good. Tom Bethell came and stayed a week. He came Monday, the 17th, and left day before yesterday, Monday the 24th. I understand Mae Brussels came to visit Penn Jones Wednesday the 20th but I haven't heard from either of them so I don't guess I'll meet her. Penn came up to my house the 17th and visited with Sylvia but things got pretty tense with Penn and Sylvia and also with Penn and Tom...

Arch said that Bud called him yesterday and said two of his young researchers will be here tomorrow for some work in Dallas. I think Arch met them both in D.C. but I don't know them.

I want to take this opportunity to again thank you both for your letters of encouragement during the past six or seven months. I don't think I could have lived through these trying times without them. Please believe me, I am very sincere about this. Harold, your letters have been especially helpful to me. It seems you have said just the right thing at the right time...

Love, Mary